GHOST RIDER

JOHNNY BLAZE AND DANNY KETCH ARE CURSED. BOTH BROTHERS ARE DOOMED TO LIVE LIFE AS GHOST RIDERS, BRUTAL SPIRITS THAT EXIST ONLY TO METE OUT VENGEANCE AGAINST EVILDOERS. AFTER YEARS SPENT BEING A PAWN OF HELL, BLAZE HAS RECENTLY LEARNED THAT THE GHOST RIDER IS ACTUALLY A WEAPON OF HEAVEN, BONDED TO HIM BY THE RENEGADE ANGEL ZADKIEL. AT LONG LAST, BLAZE AND KETCH KNOW EXACTLY WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR RUINING THEIR LIVES.

ZADKIEL SUCCEEDED IN TRICKING DANNY INTO GATHERING THE POWER OF ALL THE GHOST RIDERS ON EARTH AND USED THAT POWER TO CONQUER HEAVEN. ZADKIEL IS NOW CLOSE TO WIELDING ULTIMATE POWER OVER ALL CREATION.

TO FULFILL HIS PLAN, ZADKIEL MUST HUNT DOWN THE ANTICHRIST, A YOUNG BOY WHO IS DESTINED TO BRING ABOUT THE BIBLICAL APOCALYPSE. BLAZE AND KETCH FIGHT TO KEEP THE BOY SAFE LONG ENOUGH TO FIND A WAY TO CONFRONT ZADKIEL.

JOINING THE BROTHERS IN THEIR FIGHT TO PROTECT THIS BOY ARE SISTER SARA, THE CARETAKER OF THE LEGACY OF THE GHOST RIDERS, THE SON OF SATAN, AND JANE CUTTER, OCCULT TERRORIST.

AS THE HORDES OF ZADKIEL DESCEND ON A CONVENT WHICH GUARDS THE FINAL GATEWAY TO HEAVEN, THE ANTICHRIST SPRINGS HIS TRAP AND CAPTURES SISTER SARA.

IT SEEMS THE LEGIONS OF HELL HAVE A BONE TO PICK WITH THE GHOST RIDERS AS WELL.

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IT'S LIKE AN OCEAN.
YOU DON'T CONTAIN IT. YOU CAN'T. IT CONTAINS YOU.
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE STANDING IN THE OCEAN, SURROUNDED BY THE SEAS IN EVERY DIRECTION, AND THE WAVES ARE CRASHING ALL AROUND, LIFTING YOU UP, THREATENING TO PULL YOU UNDER...
IT'S LIKE STANDING IN THAT RAGING WATER AND BEING ABLE TO REACH OUT THROUGH IT...
TO PEEL THE TIDE BACK FROM ONE COAST, WHILE DROWNING ANOTHER IN WAVES...
JUST BY WILLING IT.
TO FEEL EVERY GRAIN OF SALT IN AN ENDLESS SEA. TO KNOW EVERY SPECK OF LIFE, FROM THE FOAMY CRESTS TO THE MURKY DEPTHS.
TO BE TOUCHED BY IT ALL.

HEAVEN'S ON FIRE

PART FIVE

SOLE REIGNING HOLDS THE TYRANNY OF HEAVEN

JASON AARON	ROLAND BOSCHI	DAN BROWN	VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA	GREG LAND	SEBASTIAN GIRNER	AXEL ALONSO	JOE QUESADA	DAN BUCKLEY	ALAN FINE
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THE LONGER I HOLD THIS THRONE, THE MORE POWERFUL I BECOME.
SOON I WILL KNOW OMNIPOTENCE. SOON THE THREADS OF ALL EXISTENCE WILL BE LAID OUT BEFORE ME.
MINE TO REND AND TEAR AT WILL.
ALREADY DO I PLUCK AT THOSE THREADS. IN A VILLAGE IN THE KUNLUN MOUNTAINS, I HAVE MADE IT RAIN BLOOD AND URINE FOR THREE DAYS, SIMPLY BECAUSE IT PLEASED ME TO DO SO.
IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE, AN EXPECTANT MOTHER HAS JUST GIVEN BIRTH TO A LITTER OF SQUEALING BABY PIGS. IN AN ANCIENT TEMPLE THAT OVERLOOKS THE DEAD SEA, SEVERAL SACRED STATUES HAVE BEGUN TO SOIL THEMSELVES.
SOON ENOUGH I WILL HAVE THE POWER NOT JUST TO TAMPER AND TWEAK, BUT TO ERADICATE, TO UNMAKE...
TO DESTROY ON A SCALE PREVIOUSLY UNDREAMT OF, EVEN BY THE GREATEST OF DESPOTS AND MADMEN.
AND ON THAT DAY, EVERY THING THAT DARE CALL ITSELF ALIVE IN ALL THE COSMOS WILL GROVEL BEFORE ME AND BEG FOR MY MERCY.
AND I WILL SIMPLY LAUGH.
AND WATCH THEM BURN.

VRRROOOOOMMMM!
BURN! MAIM! FEED! KILL! RIDE, RIDE, RIDE!!!
RRAAARRRGGGHH!!!
YEAH! LET'S TEACH THEM THE MEANING OF FEAR AND PAIN AND ABJECT HUMILIATION! LET'S TEACH THEM THAT THEY'RE LOWER THAN DOGS! THAT NO ONE WILL EVER LOVE THEM!
THAT BECAUSE OF THEIR BIZARRE PHYSICAL DEFORMITIES, THEY'LL BE ABANDONED AT AN EARLY AGE AND RAISED IN FREAK SHOWS, LAUGHED AT AND MOCKED, MADE TO SLEEP IN CAGES AND EAT CAT FOOD!
THAT THEY'LL BE VIRGINS UNTIL THEY'RE 37, AND EVEN THEN THEY'LL HAVE TO PAY FOR IT, AND PAY EXTRA!
LET'S PUT THE DISGUSTING LITTLE INBRED FREAKS OUTTA THEIR MISERY, JUST LIKE THEIR MOTHERS SHOULD'VE DONE A LONG TIME AGO!
LET'S KILL THEM ALL!

BLAM
DID I GET HIM?
NEVERMIND.
FINGER ON THE TRIGGER, MY GUN NUNS!
AAAAAARRGGGHH!!!
LET THE GOOD LORD GUIDE YOUR AIM.
YOU HEAR THAT?
YEAH. SOUNDS LIKE... AT LEAST A COUPLE DOZEN BIKES...STREET RIDES MOSTLY. AND ONE BIG MEAN CHOPPER.
PLUS ASSORTED ZOMBIE GROWLS, SCREAMS AND A WHOLE LOTTA GUNSHOTS.
YEAH...
GUESS WE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE.

FOOOOOSH
AAAAAAHHH!!
WHAT THE HELL... WHERE...
DID YOU... DID YOU JUST BLAST ME WITH HELLFIRE?
YES. AND YOU SHOT MY EAR OFF. LET'S CALL IT EVEN.
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO US?
UM... HI.
OH YEAH.

GIANT BURGER
YES, COME ALONG, YOU FOUL WENCH, AND LET ME FEAST ON YOUR DEEPEST, DARKEST FEARS.
SORRY, PAL, BUT I FLUSH MY FEARS OUT EVERY MORNING WITH A BOTTLE OF SCOTCH SPECIALLY BREWED IN HELL FROM THE FERMENTED NIGHTMARES OF CANNIBAL PSYCHOPATHS AND TV EVANGELISTS.
HOW 'BOUT WE PLAY A DIFFERENT GAME. YOU'RE PRETTY *LIMBER*, RIGHT?
YOU KNOW, HELL AND THE DEVIL ARE REALLY JUST CHRISTIAN FABRICATIONS, RIGHT? BROUGHT ON BY THE NEED FOR A SOCIAL CONTROL IN THE UM...SIMPLE FORM OF A, UH...
BOOGIE MAN?
FOOOOOSH
AAAAAAAHHH!!
RRRRGGHH!!
THE PAIN! THE BEAUTIFUL PAIN! WAIT, COME BACK! DO IT SOME MORE!

HA HAHA HAAA HA!
YOU CONNIVING LITTLE BRAT. I KNEW WE SHOULDN'T HAVE TRUSTED YOU.
BUT YOU DID ANYWAY, DIDN'T YOU? YOU CHRISTIANS ARE SO ADORABLY GULLIBLE.
DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT GOING TO KILL YOU. THOUGH YOU WILL CERTAINLY BEG ME TO BEFORE ALL IS SAID AND DONE.
WHATEVER IT IS YOU'RE PLANNING IN THAT SICK LITTLE MIND OF YOURS, I CAN ASSURE YOU, IT'S NEVER GOING TO HAPPEN.
I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YA, BABE, BUT IT'S ALREADY HAPPENING.
MASTER PANDEMONIUM, SHOW THIS LOVELY LADY JUST WHAT IT IS THAT'S HAPPENING.
YES, LORD BLACKHEART.
HAIL SATAN.

AAAARGGHH!!
OH MY GOD...
WHAT'S WRONG? DISGUSTED BY MY LITTLE *GATEWAY* TO HELL? YOU SHOULDN'T BE.
AFTER ALL, YOU AND HE HAVE QUITE A BIT IN COMMON.
IT'S A SHAME YOUR GRANDFATHER DIED BEFORE HE COULD TELL YOU JUST WHAT IT WAS THAT MADE YOU SO VERY SPECIAL, SARA. WHY HE HAD YOU HID AWAY IN THAT NUNNERY ALL THOSE YEARS.
YOU MAY NOT KNOW, BUT I DO. MY LORD SATAN KNOWS ALL.
JUST THINK, BLAZE AND KETCH ARE OUT THERE RIGHT NOW, RUNNING ALL OVER CREATION, SEARCHING FRANTICALLY FOR A *DOORWAY TO HEAVEN*. HEH. IF ONLY THEY'D KNOWN...
THERE WAS ONE RIGHT UNDER THEIR NOSE THE ENTIRE TIME.
NO... WHAT ARE YOU...
לפתוח

AAAAAAARRRGGGHHH!!!
AAARRGGHH-
WHACK
HELLUVA FIGHT.
NOT THE VENGEANCE WE KNOW.
THAT BIG FELLA THERE, IS THAT *VENGEANCE*?
YOU TAKE THE ZOMBIES. VENGEANCE IS MINE.
NO.
EITHER WE LEARN TO WORK TOGETHER, OR WE'LL NEVER SURVIVE THIS.
YOU DON'T TRUST ME, DO YOU? WHY, WHAT'S THE MATTER...
IS THIS NOT A FACE YOU CAN TRUST?

RRRRAAARRRR!
WHERE ARE THE GHOST RIDERS! HIDING LIKE COWARDS AND USING THESE AS SHIELDS! COME OUT AND FIGHT FAIR!
YOU HEAR ME, YOU--
HUK
WHOEVER SAID GHOST RIDERS FIGHT FAIR?

FALL BACK! PROTECT THE GATEWAY AT ALL COSTS!
THEY MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO...
UH-OH.
WHAT HAPPENED?
MOTHER SUPERIOR, THE LIGHTS WENT OUT.
AND SOMETHING'S COMING DOWN THE TUNNEL.
NEVERMIND THE DARK. LET YOUR MUZZLE FLASH LIGHT YOUR WAY.
GOD IS IN OUR GUNS TODAY, SISTERS. JUST KEEP FIRING, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, NO MATTER WHO FALLS...
AND NO MATTER WHAT COMES OUR WAY

RRRRGHH
THAT'S IT, BOYS. KEEP IT COMING, RIGHT THIS WAY.
YESTERDAY YOU WERE MAGGOT SOLDIERS IN THE LOWEST FLESH PITS OF THE SEVEN CIRCLES...
TOMORROW YOU'LL BE PRINCES IN HEAVEN.

WELL I'LL BE DAMNED. WHAT'S ALL THIS NOW?
I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD'VE KILLED THAT KID.
WHAM
STOP THEM! KILL THEM! REND THEM LIMB FROM LIMB IN THE NAME OF YOUR INFERNAL LORD!
NO...NOT GONNA... LET...THIS HAPPEN...
I'LL BE WAITING ON THE OTHER SIDE.

AUUUGRRRRRRGGHH!!
FWOOOOSH!
SOMEBODY MIND TELLING ME WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? YOU AND I ARE ALL THAT STANDS BETWEEN THE WORLD AND BIBLICAL APOCALYPSE. IN OTHER WORDS...
SAME OLD SAME OLD.

JEEZ, I NEVER SEEN SO MANY VIRGINS IN MY LIFE. I MUSTA DIED AND GONE TO--
BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM
AAAAAAAHHHH!!!
GUESS HE DOESN'T LIKE BULLETS DIPPED IN HOLY WATER.
UH... MOTHER SUPERIOR.
THERE'S SOMEONE *BEHIND* ME, ISN'T THERE? TWO SOMEONES, IN FACT.
THEY DON'T BY CHANCE HAPPEN TO HAVE FLAMING SKULLS FOR HEADS, DO THEY?
UM... YEAH, THEY DO...
GOOD.
IT'S ABOUT TIME. WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

HOW DID YOU KNOW WE WERE COMING?
ARE YOU KIDDING? EVERYONE KNOWS THIS CONFRONTATION IS INEVITABLE.
HE'LL BE READY FOR YOU, YOU KNOW. ZADKIEL HIS POWER IS GREATER THAN YOU CAN EVEN IMAGINE NOW.
YOU CANNOT HOPE TO DEFEAT HIM. NOT IN OPEN COMBAT. NOT THE TWO OF YOU ALONE. AT LEAST.
WE SHALL SEE ABOUT THAT.
IF NOT IN COMBAT, THEN HOW?
YOU MUST REMEMBER EVERYTHING YOU'VE LEARNED ABOUT YOURSELVES THESE LAST FEW MONTHS. REMEMBER HOW TO BE BROTHERS.
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, NEVER FORGET THAT THOUGH FLESH MAY BLEED AND ROT AND PASS FOREVER FROM THIS WORLD...
THE GHOST RIDER WILL NEVER DIE.
GOOD LUCK.

FWWAAASH!
MOTHER SUPERIOR...
YES, SISTER. SPEAK UP. WHAT IS IT?
SOME OF THE OTHER SISTERS, THEY'RE...
THEY'RE *AFRAID*. THEY WONDER IF MAYBE WE HAVEN'T SACRIFICED SO MUCH FOR SO LONG, ALL FOR NOTHING.
TELL THE SISTERS IT'S ALL RIGHT TO BE AFRAID. I'M AFRAID AS WELL. BUT WE STILL HAVE TO FIGHT.
OUR LORD HAS NEVER ABANDONED US, SO WE MUST NOT ABANDON HIM. THAT IS OUR VOW. WE WILL FIGHT AND WE WILL PRAY. UNTIL THE FINAL BITTER END.
FRET NO MORE THEN, HARLOT QUEEN...
FOR THAT END HAS COME.

TWO MINUTES LATER...
AS IS YOUR ARMY OF JEZEBEL SOLDIERS.
YOU MAY BEG NOW IF YOU LIKE, BUT KNOW YE THAT THE GOD OF MY FATHERS IS NOT A MERCIFUL ONE.
YOUR GUN IS BROKEN, WHORE OF BABYLON.
JUST KILL ME ALREADY, AND SPARE ME YOUR BLASPHEMIES. IT'S PEOPLE LIKE YOU THAT GIVE RELIGION A BAD NAME. MARK MY WORDS, YOU WILL BE MADE TO SUFFER.
YOU ARE ALONE AND IN NO POSITION TO MAKE THREATS, WOMAN.
I AM A DEVOTED SERVANT OF THE ONE TRUE GOD. I AM NEVER ALONE.
OH, THEN WHERE'S...
FWASH
UH...WHAT... WHAT JUST HAPPENED? WHERE...
YOU!

VVRROOOOOOMM!
FWASH
SKREEEEEE
JOHNNY BLAZE AND DANNY KETCH, WELCOME TO THE GOLDEN CITY.
YOU TWO HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR ME FOR QUITE SOME TIME NOW, HAVEN'T YOU?
YOU BOTH BLAME ME FOR RUINING YOUR LIVES. GUESS I CAN'T DENY THAT.
I SUPPOSE YOU'VE COME HERE TO DO ALL SORTS OF VIOLENT AND PAINFUL THINGS TO ME, HAVEN'T YOU?
WELL, HERE I AM, BOYS...

DO YOUR WORST!
TO BE CONCLUDED...